



5/02

WATER SAFETY

ALONG
THE
STATE
WATER
PROJECT



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TO ENJOY YOUR STAY ALONG THE STATE WATER PROJECT, WHETHER AT A RESERVOIR OR ALONG THE AQUEDUCT, FOLLOW THESE IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS:

SWP Reservoir Safety

WHEN FISHING... Fish with a buddy, never alone. Your buddy can help if you're in trouble.

Don't retrieve equipment dropped into the water. You will lose your equipment but save your life.

Bring safety equipment such as life jacket and ring.

Heed all hazard signs. They alert you to dangers.

Watch for poisonous snakes.

Take your own drinking water. Aqueduct water has not been treated and is not safe to drink.

WHEN BOATING... Always stay away from spillways, intake and outlet structures. They are usually marked off by log booms or float lines because of strong currents. Also, beware - large rocks on the face of dams are dangerous.

Watch out for rocks, logs, and islands. Water levels can vary several feet in one day during times of water intake or release.

Maintain a constant lookout and travel at reduced speeds. Following winter storms and during spring runoff, debris is washed into the reservoirs.

Watch for ice cold water. Sudden immersion in such water can cause temporary paralysis resulting in helplessness and possible drowning.

Check how far launching ramps extend into the water. Changing water levels can determine whether ramps will be usable or not. Wear Coast Guard approved life jackets. Children under 12 must wear life jackets when they are on boats 26 feet long or less.

When riding personal watercraft, you must always wear a life vest. This is the law (AB 2538).

Observe all Coast Guard regulations.

California Aqueduct Safety

The California Aqueduct, which winds through the western San Joaquin Valley is one of the longest aqueducts in the world. The 444-mile long Aqueduct was built to provide water for our homes, farms and factories. The Aqueduct is an effective way to move water, but it is **not a safe place to swim and play**. Fishing and biking are allowed at special locations along the Aqueduct. For maps of the 16 designated fishing access sites along the Aqueduct, please see the "Fishing Along the SWP" brochure.

•WATCH FOR STRONG CURRENTS --

The calm surface of the Aqueduct waters is very deceptive. Still waters can, without warning, start flowing rapidly - creating turbulence and strong currents. Inverted siphons (pipelines, often several feet long, used to carry water under roadways, streams and railroad crossings) create suction currents that are not visible from the surface. In some places along the Aqueduct, the water is as deep as 30 feet.

•BEWARE OF SLIPPERY CONCRETE SIDES

The concrete sides of the canals are steep and slippery with algae, sand or gravel - making it nearly impossible to climb out without help.

•WEAR RUBBER-SOLED SHOES

to prevent slipping into the Aqueduct.

•LOCATE FLOAT LINES AND SAFETY LADDERS

If you should accidentally fall into the canal, take hold of the nearest float line. These lines are strung through large round red, orange, or white styrofoam balls visible just above the water. Float lines are placed upstream of check structures (gates regulating the flow of water in the canals), downstream of bridges, and at the designated fishing access sites. Safety ladders are located at the end of the float lines and along the canal 500 feet apart on alternate sides of the Aqueduct, and are marked by a yellow background painted on the concrete behind the ladder.

•**KEEP OFF BRIDGES** which cross the Aqueduct. They are for vehicles and are not safe fishing sites.

•**FOLLOW ALL STATE WATER PROJECT RESERVOIR FISHING SAFETY TIPS** listed above.

SAFETY AND ALCOHOL DON'T MIX

Statistics show that drinking alcoholic beverages plays a major role in the accidents and deaths that occur on public recreational areas. Never drink and drive a boat or car. Keep safety in mind for you and others using State Water Project facilities.

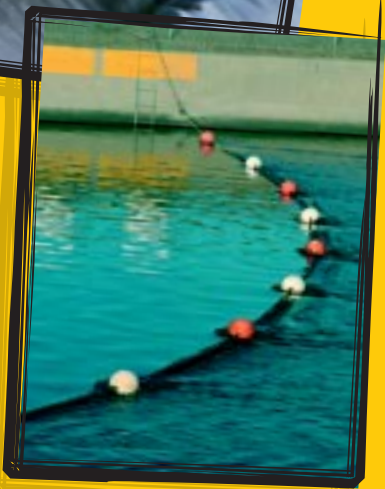
IF YOU FALL INTO THE WATER, STAY CALM

If you are at the Aqueduct, look for the nearest downstream safety ladder or float line. Swim or float to the ladder to climb out, or grab the line and pull yourself to the bank. If you are unable to locate a ladder or line, use the drownproofing method to stay afloat.

Drownproofing Method

Learn the "drownproofing" method before getting near water. This method can keep you afloat until help comes and could save your life.

First, relax your body in the water. Let the back of your head and your shoulders come to the surface. Next, pull your knees tightly in your chest and tread water with your arms. Every five to 10 seconds, raise your face out of the water and take a deep breath. Repeat the breathing as you continue to tread water with your knees up. This method, which will keep you afloat for a long time, will not tire you as much as swimming.



(photos above) There are so many opportunities for recreational fun at State Water Project facilities. Be aware that should you fall into an Aqueduct, float lines and safety ladders are spaced periodically along the sides (photo right).

THE STATE WATER PROJECT

Planned, designed, constructed, operated and maintained by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Project (SWP) is the largest state-built, multipurpose water project in the United States.

The SWP, spanning more than 600 miles from Northern California to Southern California, includes 32 storage facilities, 17 pumping plants, 3 pumping-generating plants, 5 hydroelectric power plants, and approximately 660 miles of canals and pipelines, which includes the 444-mile long California Aqueduct. The main purpose of the SWP is water supply- that is, to divert and store water during wet periods and distribute it to areas of need in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. Other SWP purposes include flood control, power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and water quality improvement in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Twenty-nine urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for delivery of SWP water. Approximately 70 percent goes to urban users and 30 percent to agricultural users.

These SWP contracting agencies are repaying the full cost, plus interest, of financing, building, operating and maintaining the SWP water storage and delivery system.

RECREATION ALONG THE SWP

From Antelope Lake in Northern California to Lake Perris in Southern California, the State Water Project offers a variety of recreational activities. At various Project reservoirs, you can swim, fish, boat, water ski, picnic and camp. The California Aqueduct, which begins in the north at Banks Pumping Plant and ends in the south at Lake Perris, is part of the State Water Project and provides 16 designated fishing access sites.

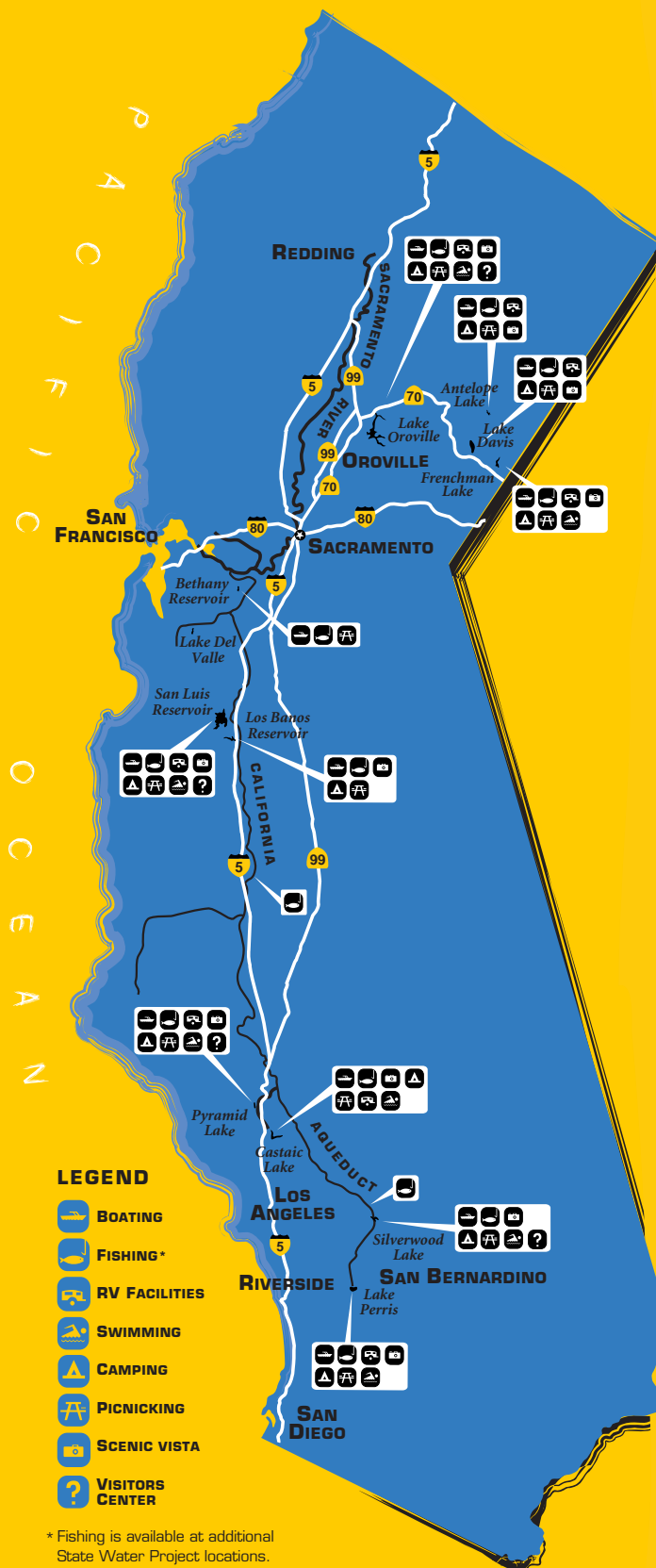
You can ensure your enjoyment of these activities by taking certain necessary precautions. This brochure offers some simple tips for your safety along the State Water Project.

INFORMATION

For more information about the State Water Project and accessibility, call the Department of Water Resources' Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.

Visit DWR's Web site at <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>

For TTY phone service, call (916) 653-6226. If you need this publication in an alternate form, contact the Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.



* Fishing is available at additional State Water Project locations.